

Strathmartine LCPP Cafe Conversation

7th May 2025 – Ardler Complex

Present:

Glyn Lloyd – Locality Leader	Mark MacDonald - Communities Officer
Jacky Nicoll – Community Member	Mel Kiyani – Community Member
Mark Brash – Active Schools Coordinator	Kerry Anderson – One Parent Families
Kelly Barnes – Community Member	Frank Robertson – Community Member
Becca Morton – Community Member	Valerie Johnston – Community Member
Pat Wilson – Community Member	Emily Whyte – Animate
Dean Taylor – Community Member	James Mullen – DCC City Development
Gerry Conway – City Development	Cheryl Simpson – Community Member
Chris Traynor – Community Member	Councillor Keenan
Fiona Mack – CLD Youth Work	Sharon Preston – Senior Youth Worker
Christine Leiper – CLD Youth Worker	Barbara Myloff – Community Member
James Hay – Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	Shambhavi Mayur - DVVA
Alison MacKenzie – Leisure & Culture Dundee	Jemma Kiernan – Planet Youth
Nicky Taylor – Health Inclusion Service	Rittu Tewari – Macmillan Ardler Hub
Hazel Feilder – CLD Worker	Claire Ramsay – CLD Worker
Samantha Lowe – Baldragon Academy	Geoff Leask – What Matters to You

Apologies:

Garrie Watson – Police Scotland, Anne Leslie – DVVA, Councillor Black, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Hunter, Gillian Lamb – Community Safety, Gary Malone – Ardler Village Trust, Ria Rooney – Community Health Team

Welcome & Introductions

Glyn Lloyd, Locality Leader welcomed everyone to the Cafe Conversation.

Background

Mark MacDonald, Communities Officer and Geoff Leask, What Matters to You gave some background information around Local Community Planning and What Matters to You, Cafe Conversations.

Round Table Discussions

Mark asked everyone to discuss three themes in relation to Strathmartine. The themes were: Place, Protection & People. Everyone was asked to discuss: What's working well? What are the gaps? What can we do collectively to address any gaps?

Strathmartine Conversation Café: Community feedback summary

As part of an ongoing commitment to shaping a responsive and inclusive Local Community Plan for Strathmartine, a Conversation Café session was held in May, bringing together parents, carers, and practitioners, with over 10 community members attending. While no young people joined the sessions, the group generated ideas and insights reflecting experience, and future hopes.

The discussions centred around the three key themes of the Strathmartine Local Community Plan: **Place, Protection, and People.**

PLACE:

What's good?

Strathmartine has a wide range of community assets, including quality green spaces like Caird Park and Camperdown, community centres (e.g. Ardler, St Mary's), churches, schools, gyms, and hubs such as the Strathmartine Larder and community cafés. Events like bingo nights and street parties are helping to strengthen community connections. Initiatives like the free 'out and about' bus for older residents are also valued.

What could be better?

Several insights emerged around underused or inaccessible spaces, especially for young people. The closure of Kirkton Community Centre has influenced group participation, and there's a need for sheltered spaces and better lighting. Transport, while functional for travel into town, can be limited in flexibility. Cycling and walking infrastructure could be improved, and there's a call for more access to community facilities.

Next steps suggested:

- Ideas to repurpose caird park golf course into a play space
- Encourage outdoor activities through community centres
- Walking groups and cycle-friendly initiatives
- Improve access and communication with council services
- Make Downfield more inclusive and accessible
- Community-led litter picks and more inclusive opening times of community facilities
- Better lighting and sheltered outdoor areas
- Pocket play areas and more seating in public spaces

PROTECTION:

What's good?

Partnerships with schools around anti-social behaviour, recovery cafés, and sports groups are having a positive influence. Some counselling is available in schools, and walking groups are offering wellbeing support.

What needs work?

There are ongoing gaps in access to mental health services, especially for young people. Support services often miss hardly reached individuals; community wardens are less visible and GP appointment access can be a challenge.

Next steps suggested:

- Evening community cafés
- Mental health and wellbeing support groups
- More visible community wardens and safety education for young people
- Accessible and inclusive recovery services and peer support
- Building trust and communication between services and the community
- Community information sessions to increase awareness

PEOPLE:

What's going well?

Community groups are providing much-needed food support, family activities, youth holiday programmes, and family engagement. Services like the community health team and dental nurses are also valued.

What's missing?

Participants noted the need for more youth provision, intergenerational activities, creative opportunities, and affordable access to clubs and childcare. Physical distance and perhaps territorial issues also prevent some young people from accessing community activities. Families could benefit from more energy advice, support in getting back to work, and accessible ESOL resources.

Next steps suggested:

- Expand low-cost or free community activities
- Improve out-of-hours access for working families
- Create more volunteer and employment pathways
- Peer parenting support groups
- Reopening or repurposing spaces specifically for young people
- More targeted support for youth-led and intergenerational activities

- Improved communication and partnership working between health, schools, community, and families to understand what young people want.

Closing thoughts

The session highlighted enthusiasm and creativity for the future of Strathmartine. With clearer communication, stronger partnerships, and focused investment, the community is can co-create a safer and more inclusive place.